

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 3, 8, 39, and 44 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite.

Claims 9 and 45 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Patent No. 10-309833 to *Dicker et al.* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,671,344 to *Stark*.

Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 10-38, 40-43, 46, and 47 stand allowed.

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Applicants have amended claims 3, 8, 39, and 44.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 9 and 45 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Dicker et al.* in view of *Stark*.

Applicants thank the Examiner for allowance of claims 1, 2, 4-7, 10-38, 40-43, 46, and 47.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C § 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 3, 8, 39, and 44 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. Applicants have amended claims 3, 8, 39, and 44. Accordingly, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, should be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C § 103(a)

Claims 9 and 45 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over *Dicker et al.* in view of *Stark*. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 9 and 45 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for at least the following reasons.

Independent claim 9 recites, in part, a K conversion LUT preparation section for preparing a one-dimensional lookup table for converting the value of black in the first machine-dependent color space into the value of black in the second machine-dependent color space with the characteristic of the value of black preserved. Dependent claim 45 recites, in part, a K conversion LUT application section for applying the one-dimensional lookup table for converting the value of black in the first machine-dependent color space into the value of black in a second machine-dependent color space with the characteristic of the value of black preserved to the value of black that each pixel of the input color image has. *Dicker et al.* and *Stark*, whether taken singly, or in combination, fail to teach or suggest at least these features.

The Office alleges that *Dicker et al.* discloses “converting K value to K’ value.” (See Office Action, Paragraph 6.) Applicants respectfully disagree. Here, the Office relies on paragraph [0051] of *Dicker et al.* Paragraph [0051], at best, discloses that there are 216 CMY combinations for each value of K and that a L*a*b value is provided for each CMY combination. There is no teaching or suggestion in this paragraph to support the Office’s allegation that *Dicker et al.* discloses “converting K value to K’ value.” (See Office Action, Paragraph 6.) Accordingly, there is no teaching or suggestion in this passage of “a K conversion LUT preparation section” as recited, in part, in claim 9 or “a K conversion LUT application section” as recited, in part, in claim 45. Furthermore, *Stark et al.* does not cure the deficiencies of *Dicker et al.* Hence, *Dicker et al.* and *Stark et al.*, whether taken singly, or in combination, do not teach or suggest each feature of claims 9 and 45. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 9 and 45 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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